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The Claims

Claim 1 recites a method, implemented in a device, the method comprising:

- obtaining a task sequence that describes a set of one or more steps to be carried out in managing another device;
- generating a job tree representing the set of one or more steps; and
- carrying out the set of one or more steps in accordance with the job tree.

In making out a rejection of this claim, the Office argues that Crespo teaches “obtaining a task sequence that describes a set of one or more steps to be carried out in managing another device.” (citing to Crespo figure 9; column 9, lines 40-59; and column 2, lines 59-67); “generating a job tree representing the set of one or more steps” (citing to column 2, lines 59-67, column 7, lines 40-44); and “carrying out the set of one or more steps in accordance with the job tree” (citing to figure 10; column 7, lines 18-20, column 9, lines 60-67; and column 10, lines 1-2). Applicant disagrees.

The Office then admits that Crespo does not teach or suggest a “job tree corresponding to the installation steps.” Applicant agrees. The Office then argues that Danan discloses a job tree and that it would have been obvious to modify Crespo with Danan to “include a job tree to represent different processes in a task processing sequence as taught by Danan for the purpose of editing a decision list. The Office argues that the skilled artisan would have been motivated to “improve the invention of Crespo . .

1 . [so] that tasks to be performed in a logical order can be easily edited.”

2 The Applicant disagrees, and submits that the Office has failed to make
3 out a *prima facie* case of obviousness.

4 First, the combination of Crespo and Danan does not teach all of the
5 elements of claim 1. In making out the rejection of this claim, the Office
6 first argues that Crespo teaches obtaining a task sequence that describes a
7 set of one or more steps to be carried out in managing another device,
8 citing to column 9, lines 40-59 and column 2, lines 59-67. These excerpts
9 are reproduced below for the convenience of the Office.

10
11 **Crespo, Column 9, Lines 40-59**

12 Workstation: FIG. 9 is a flow chart of the Workstation Definition
13 process (900) performed by the SD Application 102 for a respective
14 target machine 112. A Location is selected from the Location Code
15 and the associated Location description list (step 902). Next, a
16 Function is selected from the Function Code and the associated
17 Function Code description list (step 904). Then a test is performed
18 to check whether a number already exists for the target workstation
19 112 that makes the workstation unique in its location (step 906). If
20 not, a number is assigned to the machine (step 908). Whether a
21 number is assigned or not, the hardware required for that machine is
22 selected (step 910). Next, a workstation generation process is
23 executed (step 912) within the SD Application (102) to generate a
24 file in the SD Server (108). If the Generation process fails, an error
25 message is displayed (step 914). This file will be denoted here as
the 'SRC' file, and will be detailed below with reference to the
operation of the SD Server (108). If the workstation generation
process succeeds, the status of the workstation is set to 'Generated'
(step 916).

23 **Crespo, Column 2, Lines 59-67**

24 The present invention provides a method to control the pristine
25 installation of software on servers or workstations. The method is
based on a pull deployment model, where the installation is

1 triggered and performed on-site by the end-user, using tools
2 provided by an administrator. Based on a predefined machine
3 function, the invention provides a generation process that generates
4 a source file having all the parameters required for the installation.
5 The parameters are stored in a centralized configuration database.
6 Response files needed for the pristine installation of any
7 workstation or server of a network are generated in turn. The
8 disclosed system allows tracking of the installation process and
9 reporting its success or failure to the central database.

10 The Office then argues that Crespo teaches generating a job tree
11 representing the set of one or more steps, citing to column 7, lines 40-44
12 and again to column 2, lines 59-67. These excerpts are reproduced below
13 for the convenience of the Office.

14 **Crespo, Column 2, Lines 59-67**

15 The present invention provides a method to control the pristine
16 installation of software on servers or workstations. The method is
17 based on a pull deployment model, where the installation is
18 triggered and performed on-site by the end-user, using tools
19 provided by an administrator. Based on a predefined machine
20 function, the invention provides a generation process that generates
21 a source file having all the parameters required for the installation.
22 The parameters are stored in a centralized configuration database.
23 Response files needed for the pristine installation of any
24 workstation or server of a network are generated in turn. The
25 disclosed system allows tracking of the installation process and
reporting its success or failure to the central database.

Crespo, Column 7, Lines 40-44

The SD Application (102) provides a set of definitions that are
required to manage the workstations to be built, and a set of actions
associated with each definition. Preferably, this set of actions
includes the following actions: to list, to create, to delete and/or to
modify each definition.

1 The Office argues that these excerpts teach the creation of
2 "installation response files that correspond to installation steps" and
3 further argues that this is analogous to generating a job tree representing
4 the set of one or more steps. However, for this to be true, the response files
5 would have to be *generated* from a *task sequence* that describes a set of
6 one or more steps. The first set of Excerpts cited by the Office to teach
7 obtaining a task sequence that describes a set of one or more steps,
8 describe figure 9 of Crespo, which is a flow chart of the Workstation
9 Definition Process. Thus, in order for Crespo to anticipate the claimed
10 subject matter, the response files must be generated from the Workstation
11 definition process, which must teach obtaining a task sequence that
12 describes a set of one or more steps. However, Crespo teaches that this is
13 not the case.

14 Specifically, Crespo teaches:

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16 **Crespo, Column 9, Lines 60-**

17 The process performed within the SD Server 108 includes two
18 components: a '*SRC*' *file* and a '*SDCONF*' process. The '*SRC*'
19 *file*, as previously described, is generated during the workstation
20 generation process, and *contains the necessary parameters in a*
21 *specific format that will fill specific templates (i.e.: the machine*
22 *name, the network adapter, the Domain, the video adapter, the*
23 *keyboard, the Default router, etc).* The '*SDCONF*' is a process that
24 *reads the 'SRC' file and generates response files* necessary for the
25 unattended loading of the target machine.

23 Hence, Crespo specifically teaches that the *response files are*
24 *generated from 'SRC' files*. However, the '*SRC*' files, as taught by
25 Crespo, merely contain *parameters* that will be used to fill specific

1 templates, such as the machine name. In other words, Crespo teaches that
2 'SRC' files, containing nothing more than parameters are obtained, and
3 that response files are then generated from the 'SRC' files. The 'SRC' files
4 clearly cannot be described as a *task sequence that describes a set of one*
5 *or more steps to be carried out in managing another device.* Furthermore,
6 because the 'SRC' files are not task sequences that describe a set of one or
7 more steps, the response files cannot be said to have been generated to
8 represent the set of one or more steps. As such, the Office has failed to
9 make out a *prima facie* case of obviousness, because the combination of
10 Crespo and Danan does not teach all of the elements of claim 1.

11 Additionally, the Office has failed to make out a *prima facie* case of
12 obviousness because the Office has used hindsight reconstruction to
13 combine Crespo and Danan. Specifically, the Office argues that one would
14 modify Crespo with Danan by including a job tree for the purpose of
15 *editing a decision list.* The Office claims that one would be motivated to
16 make this combination so that *tasks to be performed in a logical order*
17 *can be easily edited.* This motivation is reproduced verbatim from Danna's
18 disclosure. However, Crespo does not teach or suggest decision lists as
19 taught by Danan. In fact, a keyword search of Crespo reveals that the word
20 "decision" is completely absent from Crespo's Specification. Accordingly,
21 to make this combination one would have to add decision lists to Crespo.
22 The Office has failed to give any legitimate reason as to why adding
23 decision lists to Crespo would improve Crespo. The Office claims that one
24 would do so in order to "easily edit decisions lists." However, because
25 Crespo does not teach or suggest decision lists, it is doubtful that one with

1 skill in the art would think that modifying Crespo so that decision lists can
2 be easily edited would be enough motivation to make the combination.
3 Accordingly, it is evident that the Office has used hindsight reconstruction
4 to make out a rejection of this claim. For this additional reason, the Office
5 has failed to make out a *prima facie* case of obviousness.

6 For all of the reasons mentioned above, the Office has failed to
7 make out a *prima facie* case of obviousness. As such, this claim is
8 allowable.

9 **Claims 2-12** depend from claim 1 and are allowable as depending
10 from an allowable base claim. These claims are also allowable for their
11 own recited features which, in combination with those recited in claim 1,
12 are neither shown nor suggested by the reference of record either singly or
13 in combination with one another.

14 **Claim 13** recites one or more computer readable media having
15 stored thereon a plurality of instructions that, when executed by one or
16 more processors, causes the one or more processors to:

- 17 • receive a user-defined task sequence;
- 18 • convert the user-defined task sequence into an ordered series
19 of steps; and
- 20 • perform the series of steps in managing a device over a
21 network in accordance with their order.

22 In making out a rejection of this claim, the Office uses the same
23 argument as was used in making out a rejection of claim 1. However,
24 claim 13 does not recite the use of a “job tree.” The Office included Danan
25 in claim 1 solely for the purpose of teaching a job tree. Therefore, because

1 there is no "job tree" mentioned in claim 13, the Office has not established
2 a prima facie case of obviousness for at least the reason that the motivation
3 for the combination is misplaced and inappropriate.

4 In addition, the Office has failed to make out a *prima facie* case of
5 obviousness because the combination of Crespo and Danan does not teach
6 all of the elements of this claim for the same reasons as argued with regard
7 to claim 1. Specifically, Crespo does not teach receive a *user defined task*
8 *sequence* because, as mentioned above, the 'SRC' files of Crespo merely
9 contain a list of parameters. Furthermore, Crespo cannot teach converting
10 the *user-defined task sequence* into an ordered series of steps for at least
11 the reason that the response file, as taught by Crespo, is generated from the
12 'SRC' file which does not contain a user-defined task sequence. Therefore,
13 the Office has failed to make out a *prima facie* case of obviousness
14 because the combination of Crespo and Danan does not teach all of the
15 elements of this claim.

16 Accordingly, for all of the reasons stated above the Office has failed
17 to make out a *prima facie* case of obviousness. As such, this claim is
18 allowable.

19 **Claims 14-21** depend from claim 13 and are allowable as
20 depending from an allowable base claim. These claims are also allowable
21 for their own recited features which, in combination with those recited in
22 claim 13, are neither shown nor suggested by the reference of record either
23 singly or in combination with one another.

1 **Claim 22** recites a method, implemented in a device, the method
2 comprising:

- 3 • obtaining a user-defined task sequence that describes an
- 4 action to be carried out in managing another device;
- 5 • converting the user-defined task sequence to a set of one or
- 6 more steps of a job to be carried out in managing the other
- 7 device; and
- 8 • carrying out the one or more steps of the job.

9 In making out a rejection of this claim, the Office argues that
10 Crespo teaches all of the elements of this claim. The Applicant disagrees,
11 and respectfully traverses the Office's argument.

12 In making out the rejection of this claim, the Office first argues that
13 Crespo teaches obtaining a user-defined task sequence that describes an
14 action to be carried out in managing another device, citing to column 9,
15 lines 40-59 and column 2, lines 59-67. These excerpts are reproduced
16 below for the convenience of the Office.

17 **Crespo, Column 9, Lines 40-59**

18 Workstation: FIG. 9 is a flow chart of the Workstation Definition
19 process (900) performed by the SD Application 102 for a respective
20 target machine 112. A Location is selected from the Location Code
21 and the associated Location description list (step 902). Next, a
22 Function is selected from the Function Code and the associated
23 Function Code description list (step 904). Then a test is performed
24 to check whether a number already exists for the target workstation
25 112 that makes the workstation unique in its location (step 906). If
not, a number is assigned to the machine (step 908). Whether a
number is assigned or not, the hardware required for that machine is
selected (step 910). Next, a workstation generation process is
executed (step (912) within the SD Application (102) to generate a
file in the SD Server (108). If the Generation process fails, an error

1 message is displayed (step 914). This file will be denoted here as
2 the 'SRC' file, and will be detailed below with reference to the
3 operation of the SD Server (108). If the workstation generation
4 process succeeds, the status of the workstation is set to 'Generated'
5 (step 916).

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Crespo, Column 2, Lines 59-67

The present invention provides a method to control the pristine installation of software on servers or workstations. The method is based on a pull deployment model, where the installation is triggered and performed on-site by the end-user, using tools provided by an administrator. Based on a predefined machine function, the invention provides a generation process that generates a source file having all the parameters required for the installation. The parameters are stored in a centralized configuration database. Response files needed for the pristine installation of any workstation or server of a network are generated in turn. The disclosed system allows tracking of the installation process and reporting its success or failure to the central database.

The Office then argues that Crespo teaches converting the user-defined task sequence to a set of one or more steps of a job to be carried out in managing the other device, citing to column 7, lines 40-44 and again to column 2, lines 59-67. These excerpts are reproduced below for the convenience of the Office.

Crespo, Column 2, Lines 59-67

The present invention provides a method to control the pristine installation of software on servers or workstations. The method is based on a pull deployment model, where the installation is triggered and performed on-site by the end-user, using tools provided by an administrator. Based on a predefined machine function, the invention provides a generation process that generates a source file having all the parameters required for the installation. The parameters are stored in a centralized configuration database. Response files needed for the pristine installation of any workstation or server of a network are generated in turn. The

disclosed system allows tracking of the installation process and reporting its success or failure to the central database.

Crespo, Column 7, Lines 40-44

The SD Application (102) provides a set of definitions that are required to manage the workstations to be built, and a set of actions associated with each definition. Preferably, this set of actions includes the following actions: to list, to create, to delete and/or to modify each definition.

The Office argues that these excerpts teach the creation of “installation response files that correspond to installation steps” and further argues that this is analogous to converting the user-defined task sequence to a set of one or more steps. However, for this to be true, the response files would have to be *converted* from a *task sequence* that describes an action to be carried out in managing another device. The first set of Excerpts cited by the Office to teach obtaining a task sequence, describe figure 9 of Crespo, which is a flow chart of the Workstation Definition Process. Thus, in order for Crespo to anticipate the claimed subject matter, the response files must be converted from the Workstation definition process, which must teach obtaining a task sequence that describes an action to be carried out in managing another device. However, Crespo teaches that this is not the case.

Specifically, Crespo teaches:

Crespo, Column 9, Lines 60-

The process performed within the SD Server 108 includes two components: a ‘SRC’ *file* and a ‘SDCONF’ process. The ‘SRC’ *file*, as previously described, is generated during the workstation generation process, and *contains the necessary parameters in a specific format that will fill specific templates (i.e.: the machine*

1 *name, the network adapter, the Domain, the video adapter, the*
2 *keyboard, the Default router, etc).* The 'SDCONF' is a process that
3 *reads the 'SRC' file and generates response files* necessary for the
4 unattended loading of the target machine.

5 Hence, Crespo specifically teaches that the *response files are*
6 *generated from 'SRC' files.* However, the 'SRC' files, as taught by
7 Crespo, merely contain *parameters* that will be used to fill specific
8 templates, such as the machine name. In other words, Crespo teaches that
9 'SRC' files, containing nothing more than parameters are obtained, and
10 that response files are then generated from the 'SRC' files. The 'SRC' files
11 clearly cannot be described as a *task sequence that describes an action to*
12 *be carried out in managing another device.* Furthermore, because the
13 'SRC' files are not task sequences that describe an action to be carried out
14 in managing another device, the response files cannot be said to have been
15 converted from the user-defined task sequence. As such, Crespo does not
16 teach all of the elements of this claim.

17 As such, this claim is allowable.

18 **Claims 23-26** depend from claim 22 and are allowable as
19 depending from an allowable base claim. These claims are also allowable
20 for their own recited features which, in combination with those recited in
21 claim 22, are neither shown nor suggested by the reference of record either
22 singly or in combination with one another.

1 **Claim 27** recites one or more computer readable media having
2 stored thereon a plurality of instructions that, when executed by one or
3 more processors, causes the one or more processors to:

- 4 • obtain a user-selected task sequence;
- 5 • convert the user-selected task sequence into an ordered series
6 of steps; and
- 7 • perform the series of steps in managing a device over a
8 network in accordance with their order.

9
10 In making out a rejection of this claim, the Office uses the same
11 argument as was used in making out a rejection of claim 22. Accordingly,
12 for the same reasons given in claim 22 the Applicant submits that Crespo
13 does not teach all of the elements of this claim.

14 In addition, the Office has failed to specifically reject elements in
15 claim 27 that do not appear in claim 22. Specifically, the Office has not
16 argued that Crespo teaches: obtain a *user-selected* task sequence; convert
17 the user-selected task sequence into an *ordered series of steps*; and
18 perform the series of steps in *managing a device over a network in*
19 *accordance with their order*. For this additional reason, the Office's
20 rejection is improper.

21 For all of the reasons discussed above, this claim is allowable.

22 **Claims 28-35** depend from claim 27 and are allowable as
23 depending from an allowable base claim. These claims are also allowable
24 for their own recited features which, in combination with those recited in
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1 claim 27, are neither shown nor suggested by the reference of record either
2 singly or in combination with one another.

3 **Claim 36** recites a system comprising:

- 4 • means for obtaining a task sequence that describes a set of
- 5 one or more steps to be carried out in managing a device;
- 6 • means for generating a job representation of the set of one or
- 7 more steps; and
- 8 • means for carrying out the set of one or more steps in
- 9 accordance with the job representation.

10 In making out a rejection of this claim, the Office uses the same
11 argument as was used in making out a rejection of claim 22. Accordingly,
12 for the same reasons given in claim 22 the Applicant submits that Crespo
13 does not teach all of the elements of this claim.

14 In addition, the Office has failed to specifically reject elements in
15 claim 36 that do not appear in claim 22. Specifically, the Office has not
16 argued that Crespo teaches: means for obtaining a task sequence that
17 describes a *set of one or more steps to be carried out in managing a*
18 *device*; means for generating a *job representation* of the set of one or more
19 steps; and means for carrying out the set of one or more steps in
20 *accordance with the job representation*.

21 For all of the reasons discussed above, this claim is allowable.

22 **Claims 37-38** depend from claim 36 and are allowable as
23 depending from an allowable base claim. These claims are also allowable
24 for their own recited features which, in combination with those recited in
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1 claim 36, are neither shown nor suggested by the reference of record either
2 singly or in combination with one another.

3 **Claim 39** recites a system comprising:

- 4 • a controller to obtain a task sequence that describes one or
5 more steps to be performed on a remote device, and to
6 generate a job representation of the one or more steps; and
- 7 • a network boot service to detect when the remote device is
8 coupled to a network that the system is also coupled to, and
9 to communicate with the controller to determine which of the
10 steps of the job representation are to be carried out in
11 response to the detection.

12 In making out a rejection of this claim, the Office argues that the
13 combination of Crespo and Babbitt renders this claim obvious.

14 The Office argues that Crespo teaches “a controller to obtain a task
15 sequence that describes one or more steps to be performed on a remote
16 device, and to generate a job representation of the one or more steps.”
17 However, as argued with regards to claim 22, the Applicant submits that
18 Crespo does not teach or suggest a controller to obtain a task sequence that
19 describes one or more steps to be performed on a remote device, and to
20 generate a job representation of the one or more steps. Specifically, Crespo
21 does not teach a controller to obtain a *task sequence that describes a set of*
22 *one or more steps* to be performed on a remote device because, as
23 mentioned above, the ‘SRC’ files of Crespo merely contain a list of
24 *parameters*. Furthermore, Crespo cannot teach generate a job
25 representation of the one or more steps for at least the reason that the
response file, as taught by Crespo, is generated from the ‘SRC’ file which

1 does not contain a task sequence that describes one or more steps to be
2 performed on a remote device. As such, the Office has failed to make out a
3 *prima facie* case of obviousness because the combination of Crespo and
4 Babbitt does not teach all of the elements of this claim.

5 In addition, the Office admits that Crespo does not teach or suggest
6 a network boot service. The Applicant agrees. The Office then argues that
7 Babbitt teaches a network boot service and that it would have been
8 obvious to combine Crespo and Babbitt. The Office further argues that one
9 would have been motivated to make this combination to improve Crespo
10 such that a different operating system can be easily installed. The
11 Applicant disagrees. Crespo already teaches installing an operating system.
12 Therefore, the motivation to improve Crespo such that an operating system
13 can be *easily installed* is too general without some further argument from
14 the Office as to why this combination would make installation easier. For
15 this additional reason, the Office has failed to make out a *prima facie* case
16 of obviousness.

17 For all of the reasons mentioned above, the Office has failed to
18 make out a *prima facie* case of obviousness. As such, this claim is
19 allowable.
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1 **Claims 40-43** depend from claim 39 and are allowable as
2 depending from an allowable base claim. These claims are also allowable
3 for their own recited features which, in combination with those recited in
4 claim 39, are neither shown nor suggested by the reference of record either
5 singly or in combination with one another.

6
7 **Conclusion**

8 All of the claims are in condition for allowance and Applicant
9 respectfully requests a Notice of Allowability be issued forthwith.

10
11 Respectfully submitted,

12
13 Dated: 7/7/06

14 By: 

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